

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-11 remain pending in this application. Claims 18-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new claims have been added.

35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 1, 5, 8, 9 and 10 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The rejection of claims 18-22 under §112, second paragraph, has been rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims without prejudice or disclaimer. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned if any further changes are deemed necessary.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 3-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(e) as being anticipated by Carey et al (U.S. Patent No. 2003/0022023) in view of Shukh et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,818,330). These rejections are traversed as follows.

Appl. No. 10/697,002
Amendment dated April 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 1, 2006

NIT-401

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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